

**What is claimed is:**

1. A spinneret plate for producing a thermoplastic synthetic polymer filament having a core portion from which extend N lobes, the core portion having N radially inwardly extending stiffening ribs that cooperate to define at least N hollow regions in the core portion, each hollow region aligning radially with a respective lobe,
- each lobe having at least one transverse web disposed in the lobe between the tip of the lobe and the hollow region aligned with the lobe,
- the spinneret plate comprising a cluster of N peripheral slot centered about a central point, each peripheral slot comprising a pair of slot segments joined at a junction point, each slot segment in one peripheral slot being confrontationally disposed with a slot segment in another peripheral slot,
- a rib-forming slot extending from each junction point toward the central point of the cluster,
- at least one web-forming slot extending from each slot segment toward the slot segment with which it is confrontationally disposed.
2. The spinneret plate of claim 1 further comprising a second web-forming slot extending from each slot segment toward the slot segment with which it is confrontationally disposed.
3. The spinneret plate of claim 1 wherein each rib-forming slot extends at least two-thirds of the distance between the junction point and the central point of the cluster.
4. The spinneret plate of claim 1 wherein each rib-forming slot extends less than one-half of the

distance between the junction point and the central point of the cluster.

5. The spinneret plate of claim 1 wherein there are three pairs of peripheral slot segments.

6. The spinneret plate of claim 1 wherein there are four pairs of peripheral slot segments.

10 7. The spinneret plate of claim 1 wherein each peripheral slot segment is substantially linear over substantially its entire length.

15 8. The spinneret plate of claim 1 wherein each peripheral slot segment is convexly curved over substantially its entire length.